

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 H-02 SIL-01 LAB-04

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

SP-02 NSC-05 SCA-01 /068 W

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R 211711Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1568

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11794

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ARENDT, WALTER), ELAB, SWEL, GW

SUBJECT: PROPOSED US-FRG SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT
AND VISIT OF FRG LABOR MINISTER

REF: BONN 10757, BONN 09895, BONN 09574, STATE 135684,
BONN 07890

1. MINISTER OF LABOR WALTER ARENDT,
AT THE AMBASSADOR'S
4TH OF JULY RECEPTION, DISCUSSED FURTHER HIS PLAN
TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES TO SIGN THE US AND FRG
SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT AND LATER PROVIDED THE NAMES
OF THE FRG DELEGATION WHICH NOW INCLUDE:

A. WALTER ARENDT, LABOR MINISTER - (ARENDT, 50,
IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND INFLUENTIAL SPD
MINISTERS IN THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT. ARENDT, WHO
IS THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN MINE AND
ENERGY WORKERS' UNION, RECEIVED THE LARGEST MAJO-
RITY VOTE OF ANY SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY IN THE LAST
FEDERAL ELECTIONS. HE HAS A REPUTATION AS A RE-
ALISTIC AND PRACTICAL MAN OF ACTION IN THE
SOCIAL REFORM AREA. HE IS ALSO RESPECTED BY THE
CAREER CIVIL SERVANTS IN THE LABOR MINISTRY AS A
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MINISTER WHO DOES NOT MAKE POLITICAL COMMITMENTS

THAT CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED. HIS INTEREST IN HUMANIZATION OF WORK AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IS MORE THAN USUAL SINCE HIS FATHER DIED FROM SILICOSIS AFTER WORKING MANY YEARS IN THE GERMAN COAL MINES. HE OFTEN RECOUNTS HIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF HIS VISIT TO THE US AS AN IVP GRANTEE IN 1956, WHEN HE WAS THE EDITOR OF THE GERMAN MINE AND ENERGY WORKERS' UNION PAPER. HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH.)

B. KARL FITTING, MINISTERIALDIREKTOR (ASSISTANT SECRETARY) FOR LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS, EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AND INDUSTRIAL SAFETY - (FITTING, 63, IS ONE OF THE FRG'S LEADING AUTHORITIES ON LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AND HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRG'S LABOR LAW AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM UNDER VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS SINCE THE FRG WAS ESTABLISHED. FOLLOWING THE END OF WORLD WAR II, HE ALSO ACTED AS LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE AND ADVISER TO THE PROVISIONAL BAVARIAN LABOR MINISTER IN RELATIONS WITH THE OMGB IN MUNICH. HE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ORGANIZING THE BAVARIAN LABOR MINISTRY, THE BIZONAL LABOR ADMINISTRATION AND LATER THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF LABOR. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.)

C. REINHARD BARTHOLOMAI, MINISTERIALDIRIGENT (DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY) FOR POLICY PLANNING - (BARTHOLOMAI CAME TO THE LABOR MINISTRY

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IN 1969. HE PREVIOUSLY WAS A LEADING CONSULTANT
AND STAFF MEMBER OF THE SPD FACTION OF THE BUN-
DESTAG COMMITTEE FOR LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
WHERE HE PREPARED LABOR AND SOCIAL LEGISLATION.)

D. MANFRED TERBACH, REGIERUNGSDIREKTOR (EXECU-
TIVE ASSISTANT) TO THE MINISTER - (TERBACH IS A
CAREER CIVIL SERVICE OFFICIAL WHO IS ONE OF TWO
PERSONAL ASSISTANTS TO THE MINISTER.)

E. SIEGFRIED HAMANN, SECURITY GUARD.

2. THE LABOR MINISTRY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON AND ARRANGE-
MENTS MADE FOR TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY HEW, THE
SIGNATURE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT AND TALKS
WITH THE SECRETARY OF LABOR. IF POSSIBLE, THE EMBASSY
ALSO RECOMMENDS ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR LABOR MINISTER
ARENDT AND HIS DELEGATION TO MEET WITH AFL-CIO PRESI-
DENT MEANY. AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM IN WASHING-
TON, ARENDT PLANS AN INFORMAL VISIT TO NEW YORK AND
NIAGARA FALLS SEPT. 4 AND 5 AND TO DEPART FOR THE FRG
ON SEPT. 6. (F.Y.I. ARENDT HAS A HEAVY TRAVEL
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SCHEDULE INCLUDING A TRIP TO DUBLIN AND WILL BE ON
HIS ANNUAL LEAVE EARLY IN AUGUST. SO THE MINISTRY
WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS AS WELL
AS ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERPRETERS, ETC. AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.)
HILLENBRAND

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